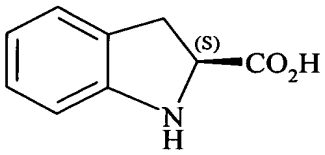
LISTING OF CLAIMS

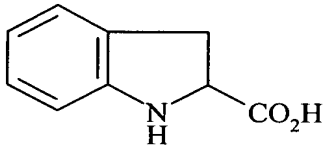
CLAIMS 1-4 (CANCELED)

5. (NEW) A process for the synthesis of (2S)-indoline-2-carboxylic acid of formula (I) :



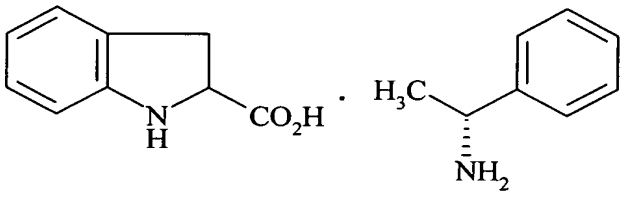
(I),

wherein a racemic indoline-2-carboxylic acid of formula (III) :



(III)

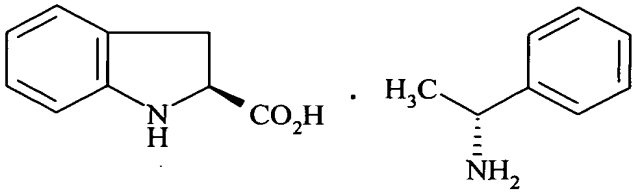
is reacted with a chiral amine
to yield a salt of formula (IV) :



(IV),

which is filtered off, to yield :

- the (2S) isomer of formula (IV a) :

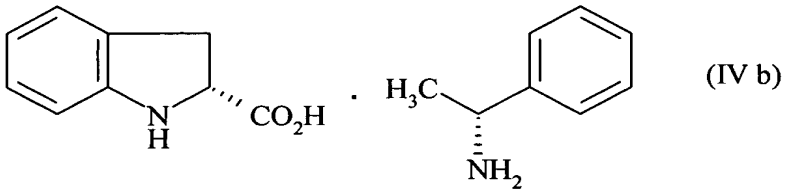


(IV a)

in the form of crystals,

which compound of formula (IV a) is treated with hydrochloric acid to yield the compound of formula (I),

- and after evaporation of the filtrate, a mixture of the (2S) isomer of formula (IV a) and the (2R) isomer of formula (IV b) in which the (2R) isomer predominates:



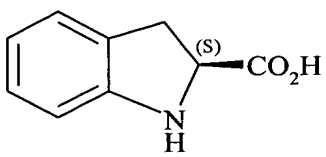
(IV b)

which mixture is treated with hydrochloric acid to yield a mixture of (2R)-indoline-2-carboxylic acid and (2S)-indoline-2-carboxylic acid in which the (2R) acid predominates,

the mixture is racemized by reaction with a sodium hydroxide solution,
at a temperature of from 140 to 200°C,
under a pressure of from 5 to 15 bars,
to yield, after isolation, the compound of formula (III), which is then re-subjected to the series of operations described above,

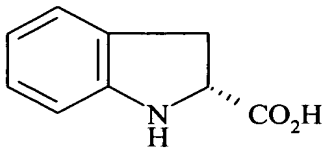
after having carried out between 2 and 6 cycles of the above-described series of operations, all the portions made up of the compound of formula (I) are combined.

6. (NEW) A process for the synthesis of (2S)-indoline-2-carboxylic acid of formula (I) :



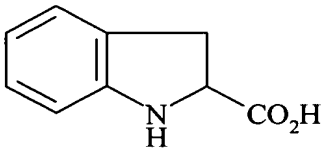
(I),

wherein (2R)-indoline-2-carboxylic acid of formula (V) :



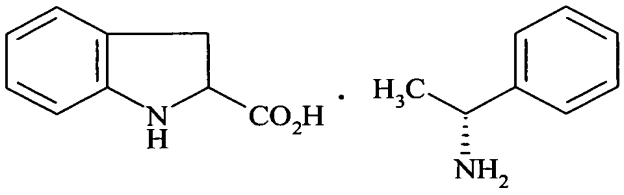
(V)

is racemized by reaction with a sodium hydroxide solution,
at a temperature of from 140 to 200°C,
under a pressure of from 5 to 15 bars,
to yield, after isolation, a compound of formula (III) :



(III),

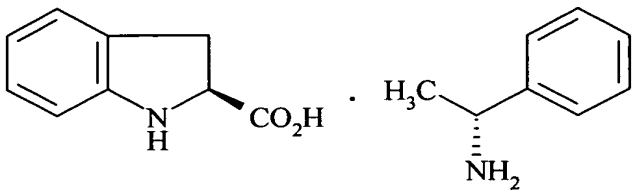
which is reacted with a chiral amine,
to yield a salt of formula (IV) :



(IV)

which is filtered off, to yield :

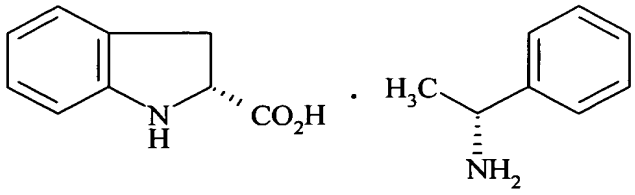
- the (2S) isomer of formula (IV a) :



(IV a)

in the form of crystals,
which compound of formula (IV a) is treated with hydrochloric acid to yield the compound of formula (I),

•and, after evaporation of the filtrate, a mixture of the (2S) isomer of formula (IV a) and the (2R) isomer of formula (IV b) in which the (2R) isomer predominates :



(IV b)

which mixture is treated with hydrochloric acid to yield a mixture of (2R)-indoline-2-carboxylic acid and (2S)-indoline-2-carboxylic acid in which the (2R) acid predominates,

the mixture is re-subjected, if desired, to the series of operations described above,

after having carried out from 1 to 6 cycles of the above-described series of operations, all the portions made up of the compound of formula (I) are combined.

7. (NEW) A process according to Claim 5, wherein the chiral amine is (R)-α-methylbenzylamine.

8. (NEW) A process according to Claim 6, wherein the chiral amine is (R)-α-methylbenzylamine.

9. (NEW) A process for the synthesis of perindopril or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, starting from the compound of formula (I), wherein the compound of formula (I) is obtained according to the process of Claim 5.

10. (NEW) A process for the synthesis of perindopril or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, starting from the compound of formula (I), wherein the compound of formula (I) is obtained according to the process of Claim 6.